

Chairman's Annual Report

Alan Lines

30/04/2023

Thanks

Firstly, I would like to give thanks to the current Committee members Debbie and Stuart especially Debbie for taking on the waiting list and helping with the rent collections alongside her role as treasurer, and thanks to Kevin and John Fellows for cutting the grass last year, Janet Devine for her help with the signage and Bernhard for keeping the borders trimmed every year. Allotments need lots of volunteers to ensure all the work is not on just a few of people as the enjoyment will soon go away.

Infrastructure and Boundaries

1. **Fences-** it has taken a long time and lots of pressure, but we finally have the new fence erected by the school boundary, which will undoubtedly reduce the petty burglaries we have had in recent years
 - A. This was written into the lease and done shortly afterwards.
2. **The Brook Maintenance** this has also been written into the lease as a council activity via Tarmac.
3. **Trees at the bottom of the site-** still an ongoing issue the council have also written the removal of the trees in the lease so they will be removed eventually.]

Plots

1. **Rubbish/Waste-** there is still quite a few plots accumulating rubbish on their plots some leaving it/storing it next to the roads, Can I please remind all plot holders it is their responsibility to remove the rubbish/waste from their plots, If the items for disposal may be used by another plot holder they are to be placed by the main gate for a period of 1 week then removed by the person putting the items there if they are not taken. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE CAR TYRES ALLOWED TO BE DUMPED ON SITE, TYRES HAVE SPECIAL DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND AN ALOOTMENT SITE IS NOT ONE.
2. **Plot Boundaries-** most plot boundaries are being maintained by the plot holders, but a few are being neglected appropriate steps will be taken to rectify the situation with the individuals involved.
3. **Structures-**A reminder to all potholders that you are only allowed to have one shed and one greenhouse or Poly tunnel, The Council agreed that the plots that have structures outside the rules can stay until they are end of life then removed, the council has plot numbers and photos of every plot that this agreement is for, if you

would like another structure you will need to obtain planning permission from the council at your expense.

4. **Water-** with water charges increasing again this year can all plot holders ensure they do not use sprinklers and do not leave hose pipes unattended; a lot of allotments have banned hosepipes and only allow troughs, we do not want to ban hosepipes so please be responsible.

Projects

1. **Pebble fund-** for 2 beehives all equipment and trees/shrubs planting are now complete, and costings put on the website, it will take a few years to mature the trees and shrubs but they are growing well. The Bees are doing very well and overwintered. We have been getting good feedback for the Honey and this has brought in over £500 to the site in the first year.
2. **Crowd fund for Bees/ Orchard and crafts-** Just £32 left to spend but we have been able to purchase all the equipment needed that should last for years with the only recurring costs being insurance, glass jars and frames. There was good production from a lot of the fruit trees in 2022 and expecting a bumper crop this year. Lots of candle making equipment has been purchased and ready for any candle making days that are started.

Carparks

1. **The East side carpark-** has had a lot of woodchips placed there in the wintertime and I will be looking to tidy this up shortly, we could mulch the orchard area with it.
2. **The west carpark-** still has some slabs there which can be used to make a pathway in the orchard when time and bodies allow. I will also be getting another load of scalping's to finish the surface of the carpark this year.

Site maintenance

1. **Gates-**The locks have been serviced and an issue highlighted that we were cutting keys from old keys causing some people issues opening the gates, I have had some more keys cut from a master and will be purchasing more in the coming weeks, anyone with a dodgy key can have it replaced free as long as we get the old key back.
2. **Strimmer's and mowers-** we purchased some second hand equipment several years ago and now it is under constant maintenance so with the agreement we will be purchasing some better equipment to use on site which will speed up the tasks needed to be undertaken.

3. **Skips-** the cost of skips has risen a lot over the last 12 months, we did get 2 skips in twice at a cost of £240 each but now we are being quoted £300-£400 per skip, so please take your waste to the tip yourself to save on costs.
4. **Taps and fittings-** I purchase a job lot of parts several years ago and now we are running out so will need to purchase some back up parts in case of failures.

The coming Season